

As he moves on to greener pastures, I wish Director Ryder success in all future endeavors he takes on. I thank Director Ryder for his all-American performance as the 39th Director of the United States Mint.

Madam Speaker, although it pains me to do this as a proud University of Nevada Wolf Pack alum, Director Ryder, thank you for your service again, and go Boise State Broncos.

#### PENTAGON'S POLICIES FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, let me start with a few facts.

One: The Leahy Law prohibits the United States from giving military assistance to foreign security forces that commit gross violations of human rights.

Two: The State Department determines whether there have been gross violations of human rights based in part on information from the Department of Defense.

Three: That process is only as good as the information coming in. Without that information, we don't cut off funding, and taxpayer dollars can go to foreign military units that commit rape, murder, torture, and other gross violations of human rights.

When our servicemembers have information on such abuses, they have an obligation to report it to their chain of command, but that is not technically true for Defense Department contractors. That is a problem. In fact, that is a big problem because contractors are a huge part of our military presence around the world. They make up more than half of DOD personnel in Iraq.

At the end of the war in Afghanistan, they outnumbered U.S. troops 17 to 1. And there have been repeated allegations of contractors who failed to report gross violations of human rights, from sexual abuse of young boys in Afghanistan to the torture of prisoners in Yemen.

In December 2019, Congress required the Pentagon to update the relevant policies and regulations. Section 888 of that year's Defense bill required specific guidance to Defense contractors on reporting gross violations of human rights.

Section 888 said to the Pentagon very simply: Put this duty to report human rights violations in your contracts. Include rules about reporting gross violations of human rights and put them right next to the rules for accounting, for purchasing equipment, and for subcontracting.

How has this been working? Not at all.

And why is that?

It is because the Department of Defense has apparently decided it is better to see no evil and hear no evil when Defense contractors witness gross violations of human rights.

The requirements in section 888 are currently 469 days overdue.

Madam Speaker, 204 days ago, my colleagues wrote to the Pentagon asking for an update; 97 days ago, the Pentagon sent a response that is best described with language that is prohibited on the House floor.

The Pentagon's response provided no updates on time, no procedures for reporting gross violations of human rights, and provided none of the other information required under the law that Congress passed. This is completely unacceptable, and what it suggests is that neither human rights nor Congressional oversight are priorities for the Department of Defense.

I urge Secretary Austin and General Milley to find out what is going on with section 888 of the fiscal year 2020 NDAA and fix whatever problems within their departments have led to this unacceptable delay.

This week, Secretary Austin and General Milley testified under oath that we are going to learn the lessons of the war in Afghanistan. The need for strong, clear procedures for contractors to report gross violations of human rights is one of those lessons. It should be an easy one to learn.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Ms. PORTER: The right to vote is fundamental. Any threat to any American at the ballot box is a threat to every American's right to representative government.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to protect our Nation's democracy. We need to expand opportunities to vote, especially for young people, people of color, workers with atypical hours, and people with disabilities. We need to crack down on gerrymandering so that voters choose their leaders instead of leaders choosing their voters. We need to modernize voter registration, reform our broken campaign finance system, and prevent election subversion.

This is not a partisan issue. Every American, regardless of who they vote for or whether they even vote, deserves a government that works for them. And that cannot happen when the bedrock of our democracy, the right to vote, is undermined.

In the House, I proudly voted for H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advance Act to safeguard our democracy. But until the President signs democracy protection into law, the work is not done. I will keep fighting for our democracy.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DEBORAH HANSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Deborah Hansen for her service to the people of Florida's Sixth Congressional District over the last 3 years in my office.

Deborah was born in Salem, Oregon, to her parents, Bill and Fae Hansen. After graduating high school, Ms. Hansen left Salem to attend the University of Utah where she received her bachelor's degree in science and sociology with an emphasis in criminology, social work, and child welfare.

Upon graduating from the University of Utah, Ms. Hansen began her steadfast and inspiring career of public service. Deborah devoted over 30 years of work to the juvenile justice programs in Oregon and Utah. During this time, she also taught criminal justice courses as an adjunct professor for local community colleges.

While attaining all of her accomplishments, Deborah is most proud of raising her four beautiful children—Dustin, Dalton, Dain, and Danelle.

Prior to coming to my office, Ms. Hansen served with Representatives Cresent Hardy from Nevada and Representative Jason Lewis from Minnesota. In 2019, I was fortunate enough to have Deborah join my team as my office manager.

She quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset, overseeing multiple meetings, the many requests we received, managing the daily operations of my Washington, D.C., office, and most importantly, keeping a freshman Member of Congress on track—no easy task, for sure.

Not only did she keep all of us in line, but Deborah also brought a great spirit to our office. She always brought in baked goods to share, had a new story to tell—whether it be a memory of her time on the West Coast, the latest adventures of her grandchildren, or about some mischief her new puppy, Tucker, had managed to get himself into—we were all ears.

Deborah is diligent; she is talented, hardworking, but above all, she is kind. And while I am sad to see her leave, I can say without a doubt, she has made both our office and our country a better place.

We wish Deborah a happy and hopefully, very relaxing retirement in the country filled with quality time with her four children, 13 grandchildren, and her favorite puppy, Tucker. However, I know this is not the end of Deborah's public service but the start of a new adventure in service to her community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues and the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Deborah Hansen for her lifelong career of servant leadership. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish Deborah the best as she embarks on this next chapter in her life.

#### 2021 CONTRACT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, during one of my floor speeches last week, I shared that President Biden's

Build Back Better plan embodied the vision of the American people and is the kind of legislation that assures our people, hardworking Americans across the country, that we will not abandon them in their time of need.

Now, I love history. And tomorrow is a very special day in the Virgin Islands. It is Contract Day. I can't help but make the connection between the landmark provisions outlined in Build Back Better, this transformational piece of legislation, and what is happening in our Halls of Congress as we come to the point of passing that, with the struggle that took place in my home on St. Croix on October 1, 1878. Then known as the Danish West Indies, on that day in history, almost 150 years ago, four brave, stalwart women led the St. Croix Labor Rebellion, also known to us in the Virgin Islands as "Fireburn." We honor the memory and sacrifices made by our ancestors on this day, which we call Contract Day.

Now, after slaves in the Danish West Indies organized, fought, and took their freedom from chattel slavery in 1848, a new type of slavery was formed in a labor bill the following year to regulate the now free workers. The law stipulated a day wage and restricted and confined workers to remain on one plantation for the entire year. That location could only change on Contract Day, October 1.

Former slaves worked on the same plantation as before with little to no improvements in their living conditions, healthcare, no childcare, education, no change in income. These new restrictions forced the workers to bear an impossible, untenable burden. They soon realized that they were free in name alone.

The untenable working and living conditions along with the false hope that labor laws may change and then finding out that they were not going to change, ignited a protest that led to a rebellion in Fredriksted on the island of St. Croix. That movement was bravely led by four women who we immortalize in our history as the queens: Queen Mary Thomas, Queen Mathilde Macbean, Queen Susanna "Bottom Belly" Abrahamson, and Queen Axeline "Queen Agnes" Salomon, demanding all plantations improve workers' wages and repeal the Labor Act of 1849.

Many of the protestors were killed; hanged. The women were tied to a stake, covered in molasses, and burned, irony being that the same cane that they cut, made into sugar and molasses, would be the instrument of their cruel death.

The fight for appropriate pay, job creation, equity and improvement in working conditions, living wages, sanitary housing, clean drinking water, especially for those in need, continues today in America. And we are attempting to solve those with the provisions in President Biden's Build Back Better plan.

All people, they simply want support, a foundation for them to have a rep-

utable shot at the American Dream. Women want meaningful jobs and the ability to leave their children in sanitary, clean, safe, affordable childcare; the ability to buy a home so that you can obtain equity for your children's college; to start a business.

When I think of my ancestors and how bravely they fought—some to their death—for the causes of equity and improved labor conditions, I am encouraged to continue advocating, championing, fighting for the changes that I believe the Build Back Better plan will bring us closer to, bring our Nation and those within it to those dreams that we all have.

I pray this same encouragement and spirit of boldness and perseverance for all of my colleagues who are standing with us in that fight.

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#### RECOGNIZING CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID STEFFEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dedicated law enforcement officer from Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

Northern Lancaster County Regional Chief of Police David Steffen was recently selected to serve as the president of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, which represents over 1,200 commanding level officers across local, State, and Federal law enforcement entities in Pennsylvania.

Chief Steffen has spent his 40-plus-year career in law enforcement, having served in Jackson Township, Hampden Township, and then the Northern York County Regional Police Department, before being named the first chief of Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department in 2011.

As chief of the department, Steffen leads over 30 full-time sworn officers and three civil staff, covering approximately 100 square miles in north central Lancaster County.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chief Steffen for supporting his fellow law enforcement officers, for achieving this recognition, and congratulate him on his new and well-deserved role.

To Chief Steffen and law enforcement officers across Pennsylvania's 11th District and across the country, thank you for your dedicated service and your efforts to keep our community safe.

HONORING ELIZABETHTOWN MAYOR CHUCK  
MUMMERT

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mayor Chuck Mummert of Elizabethtown Borough in Lancaster County.

Mayor Mummert was recently named Mayor of the Year by the Associations of Mayors of Boroughs of Pennsylvania. Mayor Mummert has served the

residents of Elizabethtown since 2006, in his first 4 years as a member of borough council there, and then since 2010 as mayor.

In addition to this honor, Mayor Mummert, in 2018, received the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, and he previously served as president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

Mayor Mummert is known as the singing mayor, as he is frequently called upon to lend his talented voice in singing the national anthem at events; something that I have certainly always enjoyed.

So I want to congratulate Mayor Mummert on being named Mayor of the Year, and to thank him for all of his work in continuing to make Elizabethtown Borough an exceptional place to live, work, and raise a family.

#### HONORING FATHER EMIL JOSEPH KAPAUN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor one of the finest men to ever come from the State of Kansas, Father Emil Joseph Kapaun, or Kapaun, as he is frequently referred to in Kansas.

Father Kapaun, or Kapaun, who grew up on a farm in Kansas, was ordained as a priest for the Wichita Diocese on June 9, 1940. He went on to become a U.S. Army Chaplain during World War II and the Korean war with the rank of captain.

Father Kapaun died in a North Korean prison camp on May 23, 1951, at the age of 35. In 35 short years, Father Kapaun sacrificed more and saved more lives and souls than many could ever hope to do in 100 years.

Many around the world rightly celebrate the story of Father Kapaun, who is being considered for sainthood by the Catholic Church; a first for a native Kansan.

His Medal of Honor citation gives a small glimpse at the deep reservoir of Father Kapaun's bravery and honor. It reads:

Chaplain Kapaun calmly walked through his withering enemy fire in order to provide comfort and medical aid to his comrades and rescue the wounded from no-man's-land.

After the battle, when given the option to escape to safety with his unit, Father Kapaun volunteered to stay behind to care and minister to the wounded. He was subsequently captured by the Communists and taken to a prison camp where he was forced to march more than 60 miles in harsh weather.

While in captivity, his frank, down-to-earth Kansas manner, along with the unassuming farm style and dry wit, made him the servant leader for all the POWs held by the Communists. Although greatly suffering himself, he always put his needs second to others. His strength and optimism allowed his